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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary

DATE DISTR. 24 March 1950

SUBJECT State Security Department Reorganized
with Border Guard Troops Subordinated

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The following information on the reorganization of the security system
and the border control in Hungary [REDACTED]

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Department (AVH). The matter was presented by Istvan Dobi, president
of the cabinet council.

1. Dobi declared that the missions of the State Security Department had expanded considerably. Although the State Security Department did everything within its power to enforce order and security in the country, effective border control was not attained. The Minister of National Defense and the Minister of the Interior considered it appropriate to establish an organization to be responsible for both internal order and border control. The President of the Cabinet Council gave the draft of a ministerial order which contained the following details on this organization:

a. The State Security Department will be separated from the Ministry of the Interior and the border guard troops from the Ministry of National Defense. Effective immediately these two elements (the previous State Security Department and the border guard troops) will form the new Allamvedelmi Hatosag (AVH), which is under the direct control of the Cabinet Council.

The Cabinet Council will at the same time present to the Presidential Council of the People's Republic a motion that a member of the Cabinet Council be charged with the supervision.

The AVH has to gain knowledge of enemies of the people and defend the state economic and social order of the people's democracy. For this the AVH is organized into Belsoe Karhatalmi Alakulat (BKH) (Interior operational units) and the border guard troops.

b. The AVH personnel is made up of regulars and inductees. All AVH officers and NCOs are regulars, 70 percent privates first class, corporals and platoon leaders and all the [REDACTED] are inductees. The regular term of service with the AVH is to be three years with the possibility of reenlistment provided for. The AVH chief decides on reenlistment or induction into the

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regular service. A cadre of 18,000 regulars was agreed upon. It is to be brought up to full strength by induction of draftees.

c. The Presidential Council of the People's Republic appoints the AVH chief who is proposed by the Cabinet Council. He is subject to the minister who exercises the supervision by order of the Cabinet Council. The AVH chief is authorized to make promotions and appointments through a lieutenant colonel. Higher ranks fall under the Presidential Council of the People's Republic which makes decisions on the basis of a proposal submitted by the minister who is charged with the supervision.

d. AVH members are authorized and bound to wear uniforms. Criminal police officials wear multi when necessary. The cut of the uniforms and the insignia of rank correspond to those of the Hungarian Armed Forces. BMM members wear blue cap cords and blue epaulets. Border guard members wear green cap cords and green epaulets.

e. AVH ranks correspond to the ranks of the Hungarian Armed Forces except for the additional title of Allamvedelmi (state security), such as State Security Major. Personnel previously employed by the AVH are paid as before. Inductees receive the pay of the border guard troops.

2. The Minister of the Interior and the Minister of National Defense are jointly responsible for the execution of these directives. The reorganization was to be effected by 31 January 1950.

3. The members of the Cabinet Council commented on the motion as follows:

a. Minister Arno Gerecs considered the reorganization as a gratifying indication that another step towards the application of Soviet methods has been made. The Soviet Union has long been aware that both the internal order and border control present a problem which cannot be handled by two separate authorities. The minister suggested that the supervisory minister be elected by the Cabinet Council. This motion was carried.

b. No other proposals were made. The motion was passed unanimously.

Comments:

The Hungarian Foreign Ministry was notified that State Security Lt. Gen. Lator Peter was appointed AVH chief and Minister of the Interior Kadar was appointed supervisor by the Cabinet Council. Officers with blue cap cords and blue epaulets have reportedly been seen in Budapest.

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